

Transference of Meaning in a Poem: “Since She Whom I loved” by John Donne

Prof. Abdul Bari Khan¹, Prof. SumeraBatoool², M. Afzal Sandhu³, Ch. Abdul Rashid⁴, M. Farman Chishti⁵,
^{1, 2, 3, 4, & 5}Department of English, University of Lahore, Sargodha Campus, Sargodha, Pakistan
Corresponding Author: [sandhu_136\[at\]yahoo.com](mailto:sandhu_136[at]yahoo.com)

ABSTRACT

*The present study deals with the stylistic analysis of John Donne’s poem “Since She Whom I Loved”. In this study quantitative and qualitative techniques are simultaneously used. The literary devices like **Simile, Synecdoche, Metaphor and Metonymy** have been critically analyzed to find out either they were the cause of transference of meanings in the poem or not. The purpose of this study was to find out the significance and reasons of transference of meanings. Finally, it was concluded that the devices, **Simile, Synecdoche, Metaphor and Metonymy** partly played the role in transference of meaning. The frequency of occurrence of these devices has been presented through a simple table. This would be helpful to the readers to comprehend the words used out of their literal meaning in order to add beauty to the verse and to transfer the poet’s impression.*

Key words: Stylistic approach, linguistic textual analysis, textual structure, Transference of meaning

1. INTRODUCTION

Stylistics analysis of a text is different to literary analysis because it needs to be much objectives and roots. Stylistic analysis explains how the words of the text create the feelings and responses that we derive while reading the text.

Stylistic analysis is just like an X-Ray or Ultrasound of a body in which not only we can see the inner structure/faults of the body but also the health of the person. Donne worked both types of poetry “Love Poetry” and the “Religious poetry”, this quality entitled his as “Metaphysical poet”. Donne wrote his famous Sonnet XIV a collection of nineteen poems that were published in 1633 after two years of his death. It was the period of great personal distress for Donne and he suffered from Physical, emotional and financial hardships. Sonnet XVII (“Since She whom I loved hath paid her last debt”) is thought to be written in 1617 following the death of his wife Annemoore.

The aim of this research is to analyse the types of stylistic meanings in the selected poem of Jhon Donne’s poetry. The poem is analysed by using the Leech’s Classification of stylistic meaning. This research starts discussing the back ground and points out the different types of stylistic meaning. It notices the objectives, states the significance, and introduces the research methodology and looks into the related literature review. This study ends with a conclusion that has been dawn on the vase of detailed stylistics meaning analysis of Donne’s “Since she whom I Loved”.

1.1 Objectives

There are two basic facts to study the literature in any language; cultural and linguistic. In cultural sense, one's traces the cultural, historical and movements grounding and their targets. Whereas linguistic purpose in how to comprehend the language of literary texts. Understanding the language of literature, stylistic is widely accepted notion in this field.

In this research, the researcher perceives that the stylistic identifies the importance of paying a well structured approach to the language of a literary text. Just as no painting can be interpreted without allowing for the colour scheme, combination and contrast. Likewise no literary test can be understand properly without paying a coherent attention to the way the language has been shaped.

The aim of this research is to explore the types of stylistic meaning in Divine selected poem of Jhon Donne's poetry. It is hypothesized that there are difference between the connotative and conceptual meaning. In this research paper following procedure is adopted:

1. Carrying out hypothetical study regarding stylistic meaning.
2. Analysing the selected poem of Donne's poetry by adopting the Geoffrey Leech's classification of stylistic meaning.

Other types of stylistic analysis are not included in this research.

1.2 Significance of study

According to the knowledge of the researcher, a lot of attention has been given to analyzing and understanding the poetry of Jhon dome. But these all works concerned with the stylistic analysis and language-oriented approaches. So, the researcher intends to apply a stylistic meaning approach by using "Geoffrey Leech" method of investigating the types of stylistic meaning in selected love poems of Jhon Donne. Stylistic is one of the wonderful approaches to analyze and appreciate literary work. This approach is considerably descriptive. Stylistic meaning study is focused on finding the connotative meaning rather to carry out other stylistic analysis.

2. LITERATURE REVIEW

Semantic is the branch of linguistic that studies the meaning of words, phrases and sentences. In semantic analysis there is always an attempt to focus on what the words conventionally mean, rather than on what a speaker might want the words to mean on a particular occasion (Yule, 1996:144).

Understanding the meaning of literary texts requires the deep and comprehensive study of the language used in the text. Stylistic approach to literary texts not only involves linguistic textual analysis but also encourages readers to interact with textual structure to infer meaning (Tutas, 2006).

Stylistic is the study where meaning assumes prime importance. The term is applied not only to words, words combination, sentences but also to the ways of expressions. Meaning is what are the intentions to be or actually expressed or indicated (Chapan, 1973.P40). instylistics,it is important to differentiate the shades of meanings. The component parts of it are called (semes). It is the smallest units of which meaning of a word consist of. It is essential to differentiate between the meaning of a given word in order to comprehend the idea of the text. A

critical issue for stylistic studies is the capacity of a word to be polysemantic (consist of several lexical meanings. Every word, no matter how plentiful in meaning leaves the doors open for new shades of meaning and even for separate meaning. Stylistic is more personal in the comprehension of meaning in words unlike other branches of linguistics (Turner, 1973; P;30).denotative meanings are the exact meaning of some idea, phenomenon or object, through which we identify the whole of the idea. Connotative meaning is connected with the condition and participants of communicators.

Connotative comprises three parts, controversial, eloquent and stylistic. These three parts of connotation may act together, or in different combination or totally absent. When linguist looks into the meaning of the words in a language, they are more concerned with conceptual meaning and less caring about connotative or stylistic meaning of words. Conceptual meaning covers all those basic and essential parts of meaning which are communicate by the literal use of a word (Yule, 1996: p:140)

3. RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

This research paper focuses on the selected poem of John Donne's poetry. This research is chiefly qualitative in nature but some concepts have been tabulated quantitatively. To analyze John Donne's, "Since She Whom I loved", relevant literature regarding John Donne's poetry have been study by the researchers. After studying a lot of available literature on critical appraisal of John Donne's poetry, some conclusions have been drawn as far as transference of meaning is concerned. As far as frequency of literary devices, **Simile, Synecdoche, Metaphor and Metonymy** is concerned, simple table has been given for visual representation. The style of this research is analytical. The researcher has used various methods to collect data for this research paper but chiefly has emphasized on published material.

3.1 The Model Adopted and Text Analysis

The model selected for this study is Leech's classifications of stylistic meaning, because this model is the most suitable model for this analysis. This model is narrowed down and its one type has been used for analyzing the selected love poems of John Donne.

1. Semantic oddity
2. Transference of meaning
3. Honest deception

3.2 Delimitations

1. This study is delimited to only the 2nd type (Transference of meaning) of analysis of Leech's Model.

3.3 Stylistics meaning

A manner of utterance in which words are used out of their literal sense in order to add beauty to convey the poet's sense feelings by comparing one thing with another that has meaning familiar to the reader (Short, 1996;P:30)

Leech (1996:60) states following three important types of stylistic meaning such as:

1. Semantic oddity
2. Transference of meaning
3. Honest deception

As per these concerns the researcher choose the second type of leech's important types of stylistic meaning. Transference of meaning is relatively frequent used in Jhon Donne's poetry. So this article focuses on the Transference of meaning in the selected poem of John Donne's poetry.

Transference of meaning: according to the Leech's classification. Transference of meaning is classified into four types of stylistic meaning

- (a) **Synecdoche:** Traditional figure of synecdoche is used to represent the whole, or the whole for a part: e.g (England won the World cup in 1960)
- (b) **Metaphor:** Metaphor is based on semantic properties that make an implied comparison between two unlike things that actually have something important in common: e.g (The camel is the ship of a desert).
- (c) **Metonymy:** figure of speech in which one word or phrases substituted for another with which it is closely associated ; also the rhetorical strategy of describing something indirectly by referring to things around it.
- (d) **Simile:** According to Leech, Simile is an overt and metaphor is a covert comparison. it is a stated comparison between two fundamentally dissimilar things that having some qualities in common. It is an indirect relationship where one thing ideal is expressed as being similar to another: e.g (He is as brave as soldier.)

4. JHON DONNE'S SHORT BIOGRAPHY

Donne was born in London in 1572. His family was of Roman Catholic faith, and he grew up experiences the religious discrimination of the Anglican majority in England against Catholics. It has been speculated that it was this very discrimination that prevented Donne from completing his study at Oxford University. After leaving Oxford, he studied Law in London and received his degree in 1596. Seeking adventure, Donne sailed with the English Expeditions against the Spanish, and his experiences inspired the poems "the Storm", "the calm" and "The Burnt ship". The following year Donne returned to London and became Secretary to Sir Thomas Egerton. In December 1601, he clandestinely married Egerton's sixteen year old niece Ann More. More. When the news became public More's father unsuccessfully endeavored to annul the marriage, but did succeed in imprisoning Donne for a short period of time. In 1602, Donne was released and, now unemployed spent the next thirteen years trying to gain financial security for his family. Eventually, he converted from Roman Catholicism to Anglicism, and was enlisted by Sir Thomas Morton to aid him in writing anti-catholic pamphlets. In 1610 he published his first work, pseudo-martyr, which attempted to induce English Catholics to repudiate their allegiance to Rome and take an oath of allegiance to the British Crown. From 1611 to 1612 Donne accompanied Sir Rober Dury to France on a long diplomatic mission, during which he composed some of his most acclaimed verse letters, funeral poems, holy sonnets and love poems, in particular "the Dream," and "the since she whom I loved". Returning to England in 1612, Donne considered becoming an Anglican minister, but hesitated because of self-doubt. He was

family ordained in early 1615 and quickly become one of the most respected clergymen of his time. He was elected dean of St. Paul's in 1621 and devoted the majority of his life to writing sermons and other religious works until his death in 1631.

4.1 The poem

Since She Whom I Loved

Since she whom I loved hath paid her last debt
To Nature, and to hers, and my good is dead,
And her soul early into heaven ravished,
Wholly on heavenly things my mind is set.
Here the admiring her my mind did whet
To seek Thee, God; so streams do show the head;
But though I have found Thee, and Thou my thirst hast fed,
A holy thirsty dropsy melts me yet.
But why should I beg more love, when as Thou
Dost woo my soul, for hers off'ring all Thine:
And dost not only fear lest I allow
My love to saints and angels, things divine,
But in Thy tender jealousy dost doubt
Lest the world, flesh, yea, devil put Thee out
Stylistic meaning of "Since she whom I Loved"
Whole text of the poem is analysed.

Transference of meaning

Transference of meaning is classified into four types: Synecdoche, metonymy, metaphor and simile.

Synecdoche

Traditional figure of synecdoche is used to represent the part to the whole or the whole for a part.

Text 1

The analysis "To nature, and to hers, and my good is dead"

The poet used the expression "to hers" and "my good" as a synecdoche to refer his beloved and his self and his qualities as a whole.

Metaphor

"Metaphor is an implied comparison between two unlike things that actually have something important in common".

Text 2

“A holy thirsty dropsy melts me yet”.

The Analysis

The poet used the expression “holy thirsty dropsy” as a metaphor to refer the feeling of intense love for God. Actually the poet feels like a patient who has excessive water in his body but still suffering from intense thirst.

Text 3

“Lest the world, flesh, yea, devil put Thee out”

This metaphor “put thee out” is the direct consequence of previous line that God loves with poet’s soul more passionately. He feared that the worldly things, Devil, the sensuous of the world “put thee out” mean displaced God from the poet’s soul.

Text 4

“But why should I beg more love, when as Thou”

“Dost woo my soul, for hers off’ring all Thine.”

The Analysis

The poet used an implicit metaphor in these two lines. The state of love is more intensified for the sake of her lover whom the poet loves.

Text 5

“But in Thy tender jealousy dost doubt”

The poet here used “thy tender jealousy” as an implicit metaphor for God attitude in love with poet. Here it means that God wants pure love, he does not bear anything in poets soul except heavenly things.

Simile

Simile is a stated comparison between two fundamentally dissimilar things that have certain qualities in common.

Text 6

“To seek Thee, God; so streams do show the head;”

Here the poet used the expression of “so streams do show the head” as a simile that his love flowed from his wife to God just as the stream water flows from the mountain to the ocean.

Metonymy

Metonymy is a figure of speech in which on word or phrase is substituted for another with which it is closely associated.

Text 7

“Since she whom I loved hath paid her last debt”

The poet used the idea that “last debt” and “death” allied one being an image of the other. The expression “last debt” is used a metonymy for the word death”.

Text 8

“Lest the world, flesh, yea, devil put Thee out”

The poet used here the word “flesh” as the metonymy for “sensuous enjoyment” of human being.

Table: 1

A breakdown of stylistic meaning in “Since she whom I loved”

Type of stylistic device	Frequency of occurrence	Causes
Synecdoche	1	Part refer to the whole as a comparison
Metaphor	4	To make implicit comparisons
Metonymy	2	The poet uses an expression a symbol
Simile	1	To make stated comparison

5. CONCLUSION

This stylistic analysis indicates that the poem is a beautiful example of the use of stylistics devices. All the four devices are used in a beautiful way to bridge the surface structure and deep structure. Use of metaphor is a difficult technique that requires a command over the vocabulary and characteristics of the language. The use of metaphor is at its best with frequency 4 in the poem. The words used by Donne are apt, lucid and lofty. Donne used two words “flesh” and “last debt” to apply this technique that speaks his command over the language. Again the stylistic device synecdoche and simile are also used aptly. In the first reading, it seems that the poet is resigned to his fate at the death of his wife. However, we observe that he cannot accept her death completely and is complaining to God for separating his wife from him as he used the words “my good”. The he used the word “early” that indicates that the poet is not mentally prepared for this separation and sudden loss. But he was contended that it was she who enabled the poet to get the real love “love of God”. The poet used “But” three times in the poem. “but” is often used in confused or doubtful situation, therefore, this word made his resignation to his fate doubtful and he has a question mark in his mind for this separation. In the end by using the words “world” and “flash” he wants to beware of temptation of sin and he thinks that he must bear the loss to higher purpose that is to have the real love of God.

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